

Message Text

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S E C R E T MANILA 14689

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER ENRILE ON BASE DISCUSSIONS

REF: MANILA 14591

1. ENRILE, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUGUST 22, HAD
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT BASE DISCUSSIONS:

A. HE WILL LEAD BRIEFING OF CABINET AUGUST 23 ON
STATUS OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS. (AS DEFENSE
MINISTER, HE WILL LIKELY INTRODUCE ESPINO WHO WILL
DO ACTUAL BRIEFING.) HE SEES NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEMS IN THE MILITARY TALKS AND BELIEVES "THEY ARE
NEARING CONCLUSION." (IT WAS IMPLIED THAT AUGUST 23
CABINET SESSION MAY MOVE BEYOND MILITARY BRIEFING TO
OTHER ISSUES IN BASE DISCUSSIONS.)

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B. UPON COMPLETION OF MILITARY TALKS, ATTENTION
SHOULD TURN TO "TOUGHEST PROBLEMS OF THE PACKAGE;
FIRST, COMPENSATION AND THEN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION."

C. ISSUE OF COMPENSATION WILL BE DIFFICULT. JUST
AS THE GOP HAS A CONTINUING LEGAL OBLIGATION (UNDER
THE MBA) TO PROVIDE THE BASES TO THE USG, THE USG

SHOULD HAVE A CONTINUING LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO THE GOP. (A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT.) ENRILE PRESENTED A GENERALLY ACCURATE REVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS IN 1976 ON COMPENSATION ISSUE. HE SAID GOP ACCEPTANCE OF ANY COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS LESS THAN THAT OFFERED BY USG IN 1976 WOULD RAISE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS. (HE NOTED THAT IBP COULD ASK TO BE BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF 1976 DISCUSSIONS ON COMPENSATION AND SUCH INFORMATION WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED.) ENRILE SAID THAT "HISTORY LEAVES US WITH THIS PROBLEM, HOW DO WE GET OUT OF IT?" (ENRILE OBSERVED HE HAS HEARD THAT SOME MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS ARE AGAINST COMPENSATION FOR THE BASES BECAUSE THE MAY 4, 1978 MONDALE-MARCOS STATEMENT SAYS THE BASES ARE OF "MUTUAL BENEFIT." HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD ADVISED MARCOS AGAINST THAT PHRASE.)

D. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED LAST BECAUSE IT WILL BE THE TOUGHEST.

E. AFTER DISCUSSION IS COMPLETED ON THE THREE MAJOR AREAS (MILITARY-TO-MILITARY ISSUES, COMPENSATION AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION), IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE OTHER REMAINING QUESTIONS -- TAXATION, IMMIGRATION, QUARANTINE, LICENSING, ETC.
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2. FOCUS OF ENRILE'S REMARKS WAS CLEARLY ON COMPENSATION AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS GOP WOULD HAVE IN TRYING TO LIVE WITH LESS THAN WAS OFFERED IN 1976. HE PLACED EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT, REFERRING TO SPAIN, TURKEY AND GREECE. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESS HAD IN EFFECT REMOVED MULTI-YEAR PROVISION IN SPANISH TREATY AND THAT THE DRAFT TREATIES FOR TURKEY AND GREECE WHICH HAD MULTI-YEAR PROVISIONS WENT NOWHERE. EMPHASIZED THAT MULTI YEAR COMMITMENTS WERE THING OF THE PAST. ENRILE REFERRED WITH APPARENT INTEREST TO SSA CONCEPT WHICH WAS PRESENTED FOR FIRST TIME LAST SPRING. AMB STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A POSITIVE NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH OFFERED CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN PREVIOUS FORMULATIONS. CLOSED BY STRESSING NEED FOR CLOSE AND CONTINUING COMMUNICATION IF WE ARE TO FIND A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. ENRILE AGREED. MURPHY

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